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Changes in Methods of Production

1. Cottage industry
   1. Before
      1. Self-sufficient families
      2. Agrarian economy
         1. Open-field system
            1. Common land
      3. Smaller population
   2. During
      1. Population growth
      2. Enclosure movement = less land
      3. Rural industry development
      4. Occurred primarily in England
      5. Worked for wages
      6. Textile industry
   3. After
      1. Industrious revolution
      2. Urban guilds started to grow
   4. How it functioned
      1. Carried out by family members at home using their own equipment
      2. Putting-out system
         1. System in which a merchant capitalist loaned raw materials to cottage workers, who processed them and returned the finished products to the merchant
         2. Different variations of relationships
      3. More complex industries led to more steps in production
   5. Pros
      1. Could change procedures and experiment as they saw fit
      2. Didn’t need to meet rigid guild standards= could produce many kinds of goods
      3. Self-sufficiency for a region
   6. Cons
      1. Conflict between merchant capitalists and workers
      2. High cost of product
      3. No way to control quality of work or people’s schedules
      4. Loss of traditional safeguards for the poor
   7. Effects on individuals and groups
      1. Families
         1. Men
            1. Head of the family
            2. Worked the loom in textile industry
            3. Earned decent wages
         2. Women
            1. Worked auxiliary tasks (with children)
            2. Single women and widow were “spinsters”
            3. Much lower wages
      2. Workers
         1. Accused of theft
         2. Scattered across the countryside
         3. Women were accused of laziness, drunkenness, and immorality
      3. Merchants/Capitalists
         1. Had trouble maintaining control over labor force

1. Guild system
   1. People with common talents joined together
   2. Continued to dominate production in towns and cities
   3. Excluded women, day laborers, Jews, and foreigners